

West District News

January, 2021

Notes from Ken



Happy New Year friends! May the Lord pour out his many blessings upon you and your families.

There are several opportunities coming up this month.

⇒ First, on our District Facebook page, [West District Rio Texas UMC | Facebook](#), we have started a daily devotional with a bible passage and a question to reflect on. This will be posted Monday through Friday and we ask you to share it with your congregations

and friends and ask them to share it, as well. I also ask you to monitor the devotional, incase anyone asks a theological question that I am not prepared to answer.

⇒ Lastly, please share with your members that Saturday, January 30th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. there is a Conference Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries: The Basic Class. The best part is it's FREE. Participants will have to purchase "Lay Servant Ministries", by Sandy Zeigler Jackson and Brian Jackson, Participant's Book. There are several different sites that you can order this book and it is even available as a Kindle and ePub formats. The link to register for this class is: [Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries: The Basic Class — Rio Texas Annual Conference](#).

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January Due Dates for 2020 Reports

If you have 2020 apportionments due, they can be paid until noon **January 8th** to the Conference Office.

The year-end reports can be entered online at UMCData.net/RTCStats. You will need to put in your login and password which were sent to Pastors by email. These reports must be entered online no later than **January 22nd**.

If you have any questions please contact Amy at the District Office.



**PREPARING FOR JOY!
PREACHING TOWARD EASTER IN THE SEASON OF LENT**

January 11, 2021 Zoom Workshop 9:30 am - 2:00 pm


Speaker: Dr. Alyce M. McKenzie

The Rev. Dr. Alyce M. McKenzie is George W. and Nell Ayers Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University and the director of Perkins Center for Preaching Excellence. She joined the faculty at Perkins in 2000. In 2011 she was named an Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor by SMU, SMU's highest teaching honor.

This workshop will explore how to preach the Lenten texts of Mark and John to reach four audiences of contemporary people: the "bewildereds," the "been arounds", the "not been arounds" and the "bleeding." It will equip participants to shape sermons that allow the light of Easter to shine through the shadows of Lent.

Speaker:
Dr. Alyce M. McKenzie

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Preparing for Joy!

PREACHING TOWARD EASTER IN THE SEASON OF LENT

Registration is open for the preaching workshop, "Preparing for Joy! Preaching Toward Easter in the Season of Lent." It is being led by Dr. Alyce McKenzie, Director of The Perkins Center for Preaching Excellence at SMU.

Come join us on Monday, **January 11, 2021**, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm virtually via ZOOM. The registration fee is \$20. This is for anyone (Clergy or Lay) who preaches regularly. For any questions, please contact Rev. Karen Horan at khoran@riotexas.org.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/38eBjKy>

Safe Gatherings

Safe Gatherings updated its training course last fall to address the challenges and best practices when conducting online ministry.

The module was available to currently approved users for 90 days, and it is now included as part of the Safe Gatherings training. **We heard a lot of feedback from people who did not have a chance to review the module. So, we are happy to announce that we are providing the module again, available until February 20, 2021.**

The module discusses abuse prevention considerations for conducting online meetings, technology challenges and solutions, boundary awareness situations in terms of virtual ministry, and more.##

All currently approved applicants can review the new material by logging in to their Safe Gatherings account. If you have questions, call 888.241.8258.



Both / And

MAXIMIZING HYBRID WORSHIP EXPERIENCES FOR ONLINE AND IN-PERSON AUDIENCES

January 19, 2021 from 10am to 12pm CST

This 2-hour workshop will delve into strategies for how to create a powerful transformative worship where no one feels like they're an afterthought. The registration fee is \$10. For any questions, please contact Rev. Karen Horan at khoran@riotexas.org.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/38Z5Nzx>

Rio Texas Conference

The Rio Texas Conference office is striving to provide churches different ways to move forward through the COVID-19 pandemic. One way to stay up-to-date with conference events is checking out the Rio Texas Conference website, www.riotexas.org. There are several zoom events happening.

**WEST DISTRICT
RIO TEXAS CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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The United Methodist Church

We're on the web!

www.umcwayoutwest.org

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Calendar

January: 8 2020 Apportionments Due by noon at the Conference Office
 13-15 Cabinet Assessment Retreat
 18 District Office Closed
 20-21 Cabinet Meeting
 22 Year-end Reports Due online
 27-28 Cabinet

February: 2 Concho Country Emmaus Gathering, Sierra Vista UMC, 6:30 p.m.
 3-5 Andy—TMF DS Group
 10-11 Cabinet Meeting
 18 Cabinet Meeting